



TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY

ANDREW JOHNSON BUILDING

Suite 100

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0745

(615) 741-5825 FAX (615) 253-1886

<http://www.tennessee.gov/humanrights>

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bobbie Porter

bobbie.porter@tn.gov

(615) 253-1608

Tennessee Human Rights Commission Names Chairperson of the Board and Executive Committee Members

(Nashville, TN - November 2008) On November 19, 2010, the Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) reappointed its Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners, Patricia Pierce of Harriman, Tennessee. Pierce will continue in her position as Chair at the next Commissioner's meeting in January 2011.

Before spending 29 years with Vanderbilt University, Pierce served as compliance director for the Tennessee Human Rights Commission and as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the middle Tennessee region. Upon retiring from Vanderbilt University and returning to her home in East Tennessee in 2007, Governor Bredesen appointed Pierce to the Board for another six-year term to represent the East Tennessee region.

In addition to being reappointed as chair, Pierce was recently accepted as National Delegate for the nationwide gender equality group, *Vision 2020*. More than 1,400 people applied for this position and only 100 were chosen. Pierce is one of the two delegates from the state of Tennessee.

Other nominations that took place included the Divisional Vice-Chairs and Board Secretary. According to the Commission by-laws, the executive committee shall be made up of three vice-chairs and a secretary and are to act for the Chair in his or her absence.

Edwin P. Osborne, a certified public accountant was nominated to represent the East Tennessee region as Vice-Chair of the Commission for a third term. Osborne has served in various civic and professional

roles including former Hamblen County Commissioner, Chairman of Morristown EMS Board and United Way Board member. His background includes Audit Director for USA operations of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Senior Vice-President for Greater Louisville Economic Development Partnership and Director of Accounting for the Florida Department of Insurance and Rehab & Liquidation Bureau.

Karla Hewitt, an attorney with Karla C. Hewitt and Associates, PLLC in Nashville, was nominated for a second term as Middle Tennessee Vice-Chair. Hewitt practices in a number of areas including family and domestic relations law, wills and probate, and person injury. She is a 1985 graduate of Auburn University where she earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Hewitt earned her Juris Doctorate from Nashville School of Law in 1996.

Reverend Robert E. Jones, pastor of Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, was nominated for the West Tennessee Vice-Chair. Jones formerly served as both President and instructor of the Memphis District Association Congress. He is a former President of the Western Region of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary Education Convention and instructor for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education USA, Inc. Currently, he is a surrogate parent for the Memphis City Schools and serves on the board of directors for Youth Villages. He has been the pastor of Hill Chapel for almost 25 years.

Stacey A. Garrett, a founding member of Bone McAllester Norton, PLLC and chair of the firm's Board of Directors was nominated for Board Secretary for a second term. Garrett concentrates her practice in the areas of higher education, corporate transactions, immigration, health care and government affairs. Governor Bredesen designated Garrett to serve on a Judicial Redistricting Study Committee and the Committee to Study the Administration of the Death Penalty. In 2003, she was named to The Tennessean's "Top 40 Under 40." In 2007, Ms. Garrett was honored to be named as one of the Nashville Business Journal's Women of Influence in the Entrepreneur category.

The Commission is an independent state agency charged with eradicating discrimination and protecting the civil rights of all individuals within the state in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations. If you've been discriminated against or would like more information about your civil rights please call us at 800.251.3589 or visit the agency's informational website at www.tn.gov/humanrights.

###